

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5, and ending on page 2, line 12, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

a1
--As shown in FIG. 3, a typical hot wire 24 consists of a relatively thin, elongated piece of electrically-conductive material stretched between supports 28 disposed on opposite sides of the effective cutting lengths 30 of the hot wire 24. To date, hot wires of various sizes and shapes have been used. For instance, some processes have employed hot wires having circular cross sections with diameters up to about 0.050 inches. Other processes have employed rectangular or wedge-shaped hot wires. Such conventional hot wires generally are heated to temperatures between 1000-1400°F.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please amend claims 12 and 13 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of those claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all of the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

- a2
12
13
1721
1. A method of severing and sealing a film formed of a thermoplastic material, comprising the steps of: